

Official Secret Act

3912. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Justice of Supreme Court had stated that the Official Secret Act should be abolished;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering the need to enact a Bill on freedom of information;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) No specific information with reference to is available. However, a proposal relating to amendment section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, was considered by the Group of Ministers alongwith the proposed draft on 'Right to Information Bill' prepared by the Department of Personnel and Training.

Further action on the lines of deliberations of the Group of Ministers is being taken.

FCI District

3913. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India had received a proposal to create a new F.C.I. District comprising the district of Kalahandi and Nuapara during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to create a new F.C.I. District for the backward region of Kalahandi and Nuapara?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to create a new FCI District at Kalahandi (Orissa) was received from Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, the then Member of Orissa Legislative Assembly on 16.1.94. The proposal was examined threadbare by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and it was found that the FCI activities in the District viz. storage capacity, procurement operations etc. did not justify for opening of a District Office due to heavy financial expenditure of recurring and non-recurring nature to be incurred per annum. The Hon'ble MLA was apprised of the position accordingly.

However, subsequently, a review was made of the situation and a Sub-Regional Office at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi District (Orissa Region) was set up. This Sub-Regional Office covers the FCI Districts of Titlagarh, Jaypore, Behrampur. The Revenue District which fall under this Sub-Regional Office are:

(1) Koraput

(2) Ganjam

(3) Phulbani

(4) Kalahandi

(5) Bolangir

Duty on Fertilizers

3914. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty on fertilizers is too high;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have requested to bring down the duty on fertilizers; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL)

(a) There is no customs duty or excise duty on fertilizers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Protection of Life and property in Jammu & Kashmir

3915. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps are being taken by the Union Government to protect the life and property of people living near the International Border and LOC in Jammu & Kashmir due to continuous firing by Pakistani Rangers/ troops;

(b) whether the Government are putting up a barbed wire-fence along the border to check smuggling etc;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the families of victims have been suitably compensated in these areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether fertile agricultural land is being taken over by the Government for fencing the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir;